

Message Text

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13

ORIGIN NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 L-03 PPT-02 SCA-01 CIAE-00

INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 DODE-00 AID-20 PC-15 SY-10 /100 R

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NEA/ARN:DAKORN

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PPT:JHOTCHNER

----- 103450

R 302314Z AUG 73

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY ROME

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

USINT CAIRO

AMEMBASSY SANAA

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS, PFOR, SY, XF

SUBJ: TRAVEL TO SYRIA BY AMERICAN TOURISTS

REF: STATE 171520, BEIRUT 9881

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1. AS ADDRESSEE POSTS AWARE, DEPARTMENT, SINCE DECEMBER 1972, HAS BEEN DISCOURAGING TRAVEL TO SYRIA BY U.S. CITIZENS. IN FEBRUARY 1973 DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN CALLED ATTENTION TO SYRIAN REGULATIONS PROHIBITING ENTRY TO SYRIA TO TRAVELERS WHO HAD PREVIOUSLY BEEN TO ISRAEL, WHETHER OR NOT EVIDENCE OF THIS TRAVEL APPEARED IN PASSPORT.

2. AS BEIRUT 9881 POINTS OUT, U.S. CITIZENS HAVE BEEN TRAVELING TO SYRIA WITHOUT SERIOUS INCIDENT IN RECENT MONTHS. DEPARTMENT BELIEVES THERE IS AT PRESENT NO REASON TO CONTINUE TO DISCOURAGE TRAVEL TO SYRIA. HOWEVER, POSTS SHOULD CONTINUE TO CAUTION AMERICAN TOURISTS CONTEMPLATING TRAVEL TO SYRIA ABOUT: (A) SYRIAN REGULATIONS REGARDING PRIOR TRAVEL TO ISRAEL, (B) FACT THAT U.S. HAS NO DIPLOMATIC REPRESENTATION IN SYRIA, AND (C) AMERICAN TOURISTS VISITING SYRIA SHOULD EXERCISE ALL POSSIBLE DISCRETION IN PLACES VISITED AND PHOTOGRAPHS TAKEN.

3. AREA POSTS CURRENTLY DISPLAYING PASSPORT OFFICE FORM M-311 OR OTHER NOTICES REGARDING TRAVEL TO SYRIA ARE REQUESTED TO REVISE THESE FORMS BY DELETING THE SENTENCE "AMERICAN CITIZENS ARE ADVISED THAT TRAVEL BY AMERICAN CITIZENS TO THE SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC IS PRESENTLY BEING DISCOURAGED." WE ARE IN PROCESS OF REVISING FORM M-311 AND WILL POUCH NEW TEXT TO AREA POSTS.

4. FOR BEIRUT AND ROME: WE DO NOT PLAN TO MAKE PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT TO EFFECT THAT WE ARE NO LONGER DISCOURAGING TRAVEL TO SYRIA, AND WE DO NOT ANTICIPATE THAT NEW POLICY WILL RESULT IN SIGNIFICANT INCREASE IN NUMBER OF AMERICAN TOURISTS GOING TO SYRIA. WE WOULD, HOWEVER, APPRECIATE ITALIANS BRINGING MATTER TO ATTENTION OF THE SYRIAN FOREIGN MINISTRY, UNDERSCORING THAT THIS STEP IS BEING TAKEN IN LIGHT OF SYRIAN ASSURANCES THAT U.S. VISITORS WILL BE TREATED IN ACCORDANCE WITH INTERNATIONAL NORMS. ROGERS

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